



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee Meeting

December 6, 2022 (Approved February 7, 2023)
1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Call in option: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access Code: 245 188 12057#; then press # again

Video System option: Please see Outlook invite to join by video

Members in Attendance:

Mike Berkes for Paula A. Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging
Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director, Department on Aging (Chair)
Lauren Tomko for Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare & Family Services
Marsha Johnson, Community Care Systems, Inc.
Dave Lowitzki, Lowitzki Consulting

Department on Aging staff:

Rhonda Armstead, Mike Berkes, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, Amy Lulich, and Iris Schweier

Guests:

Meghan Carter and Robin Morgan (HFS)

Members Unable to Attend:

Darby Anderson, Addus HomeCare, Inc.
Ann Irving, AFSCME Council 31
Marla Fronczak, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Lori Hendren, AARP
Ann Irving, AFSCME Council 31
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter
Anna Moeller, State Representative
Terri Bryant, State Representative
Dave Syverson, State Senator

Welcome, Introductions & Call to Order

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that Director Basta will not be able to join the meeting. Sophia Gonzalez shared the names of all attendees.

Eckert asked for a motion to call meeting to order, Dave Lowitzki made a motion and Marsha Johnson seconded.

Approval of September 6, 2022, Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the September 6, 2022, meeting minutes. Dave Lowitzki made a motion to approve the minutes. Marsha Johnson seconded. No

corrections or changes were noted. All members voted in favor. The approved minutes will be posted on the IDoA website.

Review Quarterly Report Data & Trends

Kimberly Flesch shared that there is not a lot of new information to go over because the numbers have been consistent from the last quarterly report. Flesch mentioned that the numbers from previous years have been kept on the report so that everyone can see the trend that has been going for the last few years. It has stayed consistent this quarter, overall, we went up by .1% on our Medicaid percentage from 76.4% to 76.5%. One of the biggest changes that we made since last quarter is that we reached out to the CCU in PSA 08 to ask why they had not been submitting Medicaid applications. The Department found out that they had not understood what the rules were during the Public Health Emergency (PHE). They did not realize that they had to submit the Medicaid applications for enrollment. Now that that has been resolved, you can see that their Medicaid percentage has stopped going down and we hope that it will continue to rise in that area. However, we don't think that it will make a difference in the overall state numbers because it is not a very large area. Flesch noted that on the graph that there has been an increase last month from the beginning of our inception, but since the last quarter we are sitting between 76% and 77%. We can also see where PSA 08 started completing the Medicaid applications.

John Eckert added that on the Quarterly Enrollment report shows the total CCP participants from 4 years ago was 77,000. You can see that there are more folks that were not accessing Medicaid four years ago, 39,000 Medicaid and 37,000 non-Medicaid, compared to now it's 45,000 to 30,000. Flesch noted that she believes it is due to several different things, including trying to get people enrolled and a lot of the effects of not terminating people due to the PHE and that people are staying on Medicaid. Lora McCurdy asked Flesch how many individuals we estimate would potentially drop once the PHE ends. Flesch stated that it is less than a couple thousand, specifically for assets over the limit and a DON score of less than 29. It is anticipated that those that will be dropped are those individuals that are not responding to the Care Coordinator's outreach for an assessment. On the Medicaid side these individuals are also likely not responding to DHS. There is a lot of preparation being done by DHS to ensure they are outreaching to these people and giving them a heads up on those Medicaid redeterminations. McCurdy added that they have a toolkit to make sure that we have correct addresses, she is unsure if it has been shared with the Aging network. Robin Morgan confirmed that HFS has marketing material on making sure that they are updating the addresses, she will investigate sharing if it has not been shared.

Dave Lowitzki stated asked program growth in general, not directly related to Medicaid enrollment because it looks like program growth has leveled off in the past year. He asked if the Department knows why because it does not match with the projections. Kimberly Flesch responded that answering this question is not easy, especially with the pandemic. She shared that people are still hesitant to go out in the community where there are a lot of people and to smaller areas. That is one example of how the pandemic is making people need services, but they are also hesitant to get these services. Marsha Johnson agreed with Flesch. John Eckert added that staff shortages has also had an impact. He shared that we are trying to increase capacity at the CCU level and with providers. Lowitzki asked if there is any data on providers having to turn away consumers, adult day, or homecare services. Eckert stated that these cases are worked on a case-to-case basis, but it is something that we need to avoid. We have tried to fill

that void by having family members take the homemaker role. Johnson shared in the last couple of months they have been steady on their initials and assessments and their intakes have started to increase and pick up. They are putting more people on, and they do complete follow ups to make sure that services were put in place. If the provider cannot provide that service, then they move on to another provider and so they do not allow them to go without service. Lora McCurdy shared that we are in the process of scheduling a cross advisory council work group just to look at workforce retention. It is going to include CCPAC members, and we have good representation of providers. The first meeting is coming up in a week or two, we are tracking as much as we can. Sandy Pastore's area has been working with some of our providers who are looking into expanding their service areas to other counties that have shortages. McCurdy added that rate increases have been done, but she believes it is a bigger issue than just rate increases. Flesh stated that this is something that has been added to Aging Cares to have concrete evidence on when providers are declining. We will be able to check timeframes on how long it takes to be able to follow up on that. All of this is built into the system with notifications to the CCUs when providers do not accept.

Amy Lulich shared that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) did not notify the public that they were planning to conclude the PHE by 01/23, the current deadline. They would have had to notify the public 60 days in advance, that would have been November 12th. That mean that the PHE is likely going to be extended into mid-April and they would need to let the public know by mid- February if they intended to conclude the PHE period in April.

Review of Statue PA 100-0587

John Eckert reviewed PA 100-0587 which is the enabling legislation that became effective on July 1, 2019. The legislation used stakeholder feedback on the best ways to do outreach to increase enrollment in Medicaid, it authorized an enhanced rate of \$200 for CCUs to complete the Medicaid applications, and it established requirements for state agencies to enroll. The Department updated its policies and CCUs have access to enter applications in the ABE reporting system. HFS has opened several HUBS and hired numerous new staff to address Medication application backlogs. Additionally, HFS has the ABE system up and running and have had major success to reduce backlogs. Eckert noted we have diligently invited our appointed Subcommittee legislators from both the House and Senate, but have had limited participation, but they receive our reports and meeting minutes. We have held the quarterly meetings as required; and the main requirement is for us to share our data in the reports created by Kimberly Flesch, and she continues to update those, and they are shared on our website. DHS and HFS have streamlined new processes, and it is positively reflected by the numbers. Eckert noted that per the requirements of PA 100-0857, the Subcommittee's last meeting will be held in September 2023. The Department will continue to collect this data and share with OASAC and other stakeholders. He noted we do not have the 2023 meeting dates yet because we are waiting for the legislative calendars to be available.

Public Comment, Other Issues & Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Dave Lowitzki made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Johnson seconded. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.